

REMARKS

Applicant herein resubmits the remarks as set forth in the Response to Office Action of December 19, 2000 as originally filed on April 12, 2001, plus points out the statute of all claims and notes support for the added claims.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

The Office Action has been carefully considered along with the art cited therein. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 8-20.

Claims 8-10, 12, 14-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sanford '943, and Claims 11, 13, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the same art. Assignee of the present application, Alpine Engineered Products, Inc., is well aware of the Sanford patent due to Alpine's business dealings, including purchase of intellectual property rights from Sanford Industries, the named assignee on the Sanford '943 patent.

The statutes of the claims is as follows (as noted on the face of the Office Action Summary as filled out by the examiner):

Claims 1-7 are allowed; Claims 8-20 were rejected, which rejection is traversed herein; Claims 21-25 are submitted for review by amendment herein.

New Claims 21-25 find support in the application as follows:

Claim 21 presents a truss assembly apparatus for use in connection with assembling a truss, the truss having a plurality of truss members and a plurality of connector plates, said apparatus comprising:

a truss table 78 comprising at least two guide tracks 82 coupled (via 79) to said truss table and a work surface 77 on which the truss may be positioned; (see column 3, first paragraph, and column 5),

a roller assembly 10 movably coupled to said guide tracks, said roller assembly configured to press the connector plates into the truss members, said roller assembly comprising a plurality of drive wheels 34 for moving said roller assembly at variable spatial relationships, 100, 200, 300 and 400 to the work surface (see column 3, second and third paragraphs and Figure 2 for multiple drive wheels 34; column 3, final paragraph and following for placement of the roller assembly at variable spatial relationships above the work surface) and;

an adjustment apparatus comprising at least one adjustment means 100, 200, 300 and 400 supporting each end of the roller assembly, the adjustment means operably connected to effectuate simultaneous adjustment of the ends of the roller assembly while maintaining the roller assembly parallel to the work surface (column 3, final paragraph and following for simultaneous adjustment of the roller assembly at variable spatial relationships above the work surface).

Claims 22 and 24 find support at column 3, second and third paragraphs and Figure 2.

Claim 24 finds support as in claim 21, with additional support for a frame and a roller 16 at column 3, first and second paragraphs.

Claim 25 finds support at column 5, first paragraph.

If the examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite examination of this application, please do not hesitate to call Peter V. Schroeder at 214-220-0444.

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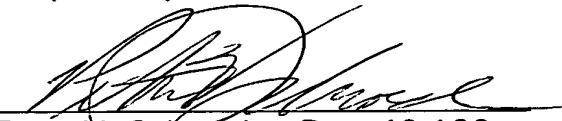
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Signature

8/23/01

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Respectfully submitted,


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